Vol. VII. Numb. 17

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Addreſs of the Lords about Gregg, *and other* French *Correſpondents. And on the Duty of a Secretary of State.*

From Saturday, April 10. to Wednesday, April 14. 1708.

Country-m. YOU know, Maſter, we are now to go upon the Addreſs of the Lords, of the 22d of *March* laſt, about *Gregg*, and other *French* Correſpondents; with the Reports therein contain'd, and the ſeveral Examinations annex'd.

Obſ. With all my Heart, *Roger*; but the Subject is ſo large and important, that we can't diſcourſe of it all at one Time.

Country-m. I own that, Maſter; therefore we muſt do it as we can. In the mean Time, let's begin, for I long to have your Obſervations upon it.

Obſ. I obſerve, *Roger*, that the Nation is very much oblig'd to the Lords, for their great Care and Pains in this Matter, to find out the Riſe and Progreſs of this dangerous Correſpondence; ſince, as their Lordſhips juſtly obſerve, "That by confeſſing "his Indictment, the Examinations were prevent-"ed, whereby the Publick might have been truly "inform'd of the particular Nature and Circum-"ſtances of his Crime.

Country-m. Then, Maſter, I think he ought to have been examin'd as to the Motive which made him confeſs his Indictment.

Obſ. Hold, *Roger*; we muſt not direct our Superiors; their Lordſhips have done all they could to retrieve that Defect.

Country-m. But why did not the Commons concur with the Lords in this, Maſter? For I find, they had a very good Handle by the Petition which *Gregg* ſent them, wrapt up in Brown Paper.

Obſ. Ask your own Repreſentatives that Queſtion, *Roger*, when they come to ſollicit your Vote at next Election. In the mean Time, I muſt do the Commons the Juſtice, as to ſay, there were many worthy Gentlemen in the Houſe, who would willingly have ſerv'd their Country in that, and other Things; but you know, there has always been a Sort of Men in the World, who have us'd their utmoſt Endeavours to prevent ſuch Examinations, for fear the Enquiries ſhould run too high, as the Courtiers thought they did in the Examination of the Fire of *London*, and the Popiſh Plot.

Country-m. I gueſs at your Meaning, Maſter.

Obſ. Let your Gueſſes alone, *Roger*; 'tis the ſafeſt Way for you and me to have no Meaning at all; for I think the Lords have explain'd their Meaning very nobly, like themſelves.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, tell me how?

Obſ. It appears from *Gregg*'s own Papers, *Roger*, as the Lords give us an Account in the firſt Page, that *Gregg* was *devoted to France*, and the Service of the *Pretender*; and in their Addreſs, they repreſent to her Majeſty, "That *Alexander Valiere*, and *John* "*Bara*, as appear'd by the many Examinations ta-"ken concerning them, were both in the *French* "Intereſt, and unfit to be truſted by any Perſons "in her Majeſty's Service; that the open and pub-"lick Correſpondence manag'd by them with the "Governors of *Calais* and *Bologne*, could tend on-"ly to carry on an Intelligence to the Advantage "of her Majeſty's Enemies; and that 'tis highly "probable, thereby the Stations of our Cruiſers, "the Strength of our Convoys, and the Times of "Sailing of our Merchant-Ships, have been betray'd "to the *French*.

Country-m. At that Rate, her Majeſty has been well ſerv'd indeed, Maſter. Then, I perceive, that Peoples taking the Sacramental Teſt, and going over to High-Church, does not always make them faithful and loyal.

Obſ. We have had Inſtances enough of that, *Roger*; therefore Men of that Kidney, who play with both Hands, ſometimes fall in with Whigs, and ſometimes with Tories, ought never to be truſted by wiſe Men of either Side; for they have no Reaſon to conceive any otherwiſe of them, than as Spies, who betray all that entruſt them, as we find *Valiere* and *Bara* did; *but by the Importance of the Service they do, it may be known which Side they are trueſt to.*

Country-m. I think your Obſervation very juſt, Maſter; but ſince our Lords are Men of Honour, I doubt not they have very good Ground for their Charge upon *Valiere* and *Bara*, and thoſe who employ'd them; therefore I ſhould be glad to hear ſome of the Particulars upon which 'tis founded.

Obſ. I have told you in general the Charge againſt thoſe two Men, *Roger*; and after I have told you alſo the general Charge againſt the Perſon that employ'd them, I ſhall come to Particulars.

Country-m. What's the general Charge againſt that Perſon, Maſter?

Obſ. The Lords lay it down to this Effect, *Roger*; "That ſome of her Majeſty's Reſolutions of the "greateſt Moment, and that requir'd the utmoſt "Secrecy, have been ſent to our Enemies by the "ſame Poſt they were diſpatch'd to the Allies; "that all the Papers in Mr. Secretrary *Harley*'s Of-"fice, have been, for a conſiderable Time, expos'd "to the View even of the meaneſt Clerks in that "Office; and that the Peruſal of all the Letters to "and from the *French* Priſoners, was chiefly truſted "to *Gregg*, a Perſon of a very ſuſpicious Chara-"cter, and known to be extreamly indigent--. It is not eaſily to be known, what ill Conſequences may have attended ſuch Negligence--. They farther beſeech her Majeſty, "That a Stop may be put to "that dangerous Intercourſe between her Majeſty's "Subjects and *France*, which has of late receiv'd ſo "great an Encouragement by the Countenance and "Protection given to *Valiere* and *Bara*, ſince, un-"leſs that be effectually done, her Majeſty's Ene-"mies will continue to have what Intelligence "they pleaſe; her Majeſty's Men of War and Mer-"chant-Ships will be in Danger of being betray'd; "and the deſtructive Trade of ſending Wooll to "*France*, reviv'd to a greater Degree than ever.

Country-m. That's a heavy Charge indeed, upon my Country Word, Maſter. Pray let me have ſome of the particular Proofs of it, that I may let my honeſt Country Neighbours know how her Majeſty, and the Nation, has been betray'd.

Obſ. With all my Spirit, *Roger*. Then firſt as to *Valiere*, it appears he was a *French*-man, came with the Troops into *Ireland* to aſſiſt King *James*, where having deſerted or been taken, he was afterwards a Foot-man to a Lieutenant in our Service, then a Drawer in a Tavern, next a Journeyman Periwig-maker, was always reckon'd a Papiſt, and talk'd ſo impudently againſt the Government, and for *France*, that one *Manteau* threw a Glaſs of Beer in his Face, at *Jacob*'s Coffee-houſe. *Addreſs*, Page 8, 9.

Country-m. Bleſs me, Maſter! a *French* Papiſt, that came

came over to cut our Throats; a Foot-man, a Drawer, and one that talk'd openly for *France* against the Government! Their Lordſhips had Reaſon to ſay he was very unfit to be truſted by any in her Majeſty's Service. I am ſure my *Joan* would not take a Perſon ſo viſibly unfit for Truſt, to look after her Hogs, or her Pullets. She and I always enquire into the Character of the meaneſt Servant, before we employ them. Pray, Maſter, who was it that employ'd and truſted that Fellow?

Obſ. Addreſs, Page 9, *Roger*, the Lords ſay, *Valiere* told Mr. *Harley* he thought he might be able to get Intelligence by one *Bara*, who was then in *France*, and acquainted with the Commiſſary at *Calais*; upon which Mr. *Harley* gave him 150 *l.* to ſettle the Correſpondence.

Country-m. A pretty Sum for a Foot-man, upon my honeſt Word, Maſter! I think I had beſt make my *Tom* and *Dick* Foot-men; for I find it has been a ſure Way to get good Poſts in the Exciſe, Cuſtoms, Treaſury, and Secretary's Office, eſpecially if they be good Pimps; for ſome have riſen very high that Way, ſince King *Charles* the II's Reign. I'll warrant you, Maſter, *Valiere* was acquainted with Mr. *O--------rp.*

Obſ. Not ſo waggiſh, *Roger*; you ſee he was acquainted with one that was acquainted with the Commiſſary of *Calais*; but I ſhould have thought him a fitter Perſon, had he been acquainted with ſome of the Commiſſaries of M. *de Pontchartrain*, or M. *de Chamillard*. But I go on, *Roger*. *Valiere* brought into the ſame Employment one *Bara*, another *French* Papiſt, that had been Surgeon Major to *Du Bart*, who, it ſeems by *Addreſs*, Page 9, did afterwards make his own Intereſt to be employ'd, for which he had a Paſs from the Secretary of State, tho' *Valiere* had before told Mr. *Harley*, that he knew *Bara* had 500 Livres given him in *France* for Service to the King; and afterwards *Valiere* ſent *Bara* to *France*, to get the *Paris Gazette* ſooner, than by Way of *Holland*, for which *Valiere* ſaid he had ſufficient Authority, produc'd a Paper ſeal'd with Mr. *Harley*'s Name to it; and taking *Bara* with him, got a Paſs from the Secretary's Office for him to go to *Holland*, for which *Bara* had 60 *l.* But *Bara* and *Valiere* it ſeems fell out, *Addreſs*, Page 10. and *Bara* complaining of his being ill treated by *Valiere*, to the *French* Commiſſary at *Calais*, that Commiſſary told him, he was ſure *Valiere* had a Protection from Mr. Secretary *Harley*; and that if *Bara* acted by *Valiere*'s Orders, it was impoſſible he ſhould ſuffer by the Government. *Bara*, upon his Return to *Dover*, wrote to Mr. *Harley*; but before he had an Anſwer was ſeiz'd, by Means of Capt. *Whitehall*, Collector of the Cuſtoms there; upon which Mr. *Harley* wrote to Mr. *Whitehall*, *Addreſs*, Page 11. telling him, that he himſelf employ'd *Clark*, alias *Valiere*, and *Bara*, and complain'd, that none were taken, but thoſe who are to ſerve the Government; when, at the ſame Time, it is known, that ſcarce a Week paſſes, but the Enemies of the Government have their Emiſſaries land without Obſervation.

Country-m. Then it's plain, Maſter, that the *French* Commiſſary at *Calais*, knew thoſe Perſons were employ'd by Mr. *Harley*; and that *Bara* would come to no Damage by being taken up. This is fine Doings indeed! The *French* Commiſſary, I am afraid, has been too cunning for us. But I hope Mr. *Harley* will ſometime or other give an Account, how he knew, that *French* Emiſſaries landed almoſt every Week, without Obſervation, that it may be enquir'd into, by whoſe Neglect that happen'd. But pray go on, Maſter.

Obſ. It would ſeem by the *Addreſs*, Page 13. *Roger*, that *Bara* was the honeſter Man of the two; for he told Mr. Secretary *Harley*, that the *French* were equipping 9 Men of War at *Dunkirk*, to intercept the *Hampton-Court* and *Grafton*, with the Ships under their Convoy; and that Mr. *Chateauneuf*, the *French* Commiſſary at *Calais*, told *Bara*, that he hop'd this Year they ſhould have their Revenge; and that our Ships ſhould not get out of the *Downs* ſo eaſily as they had done: And at the ſame Time, he ſhew'd *Bara* part of a Letter from *Valiere*, wherein he bid *Chateauneuf* beware of *Bara*, for he was employ'd by the Government in *England*: *Bara* adds, that he had ſeveral Times acquainted Mr. Secretary, that he truſted *Valiere* too much, and that he was not the Man he took him to be; but Mr. *Harley* never anſwer'd him any Thing to that Matter. Nor would he believe him about the *Dunkirk* Squadron; but when the Ships were taken, he own'd, that he remember'd *Bara* told him of it.

Country-m. That was very well indeed, Maſter, to employ Spies, and not believe their Intelligence, at leaſt ſo far as to be upon his Guard, or put the Admiralty upon theirs, in caſe it might be true. To what End did he employ him then?

Obſ. Not too harſh, *Roger*; you don't know but he did acquaint the Admiralty.

Country-m. Then let him tell the World ſo, Maſter, for his own Vindication.

Obſ. All in good Time, *Roger*. Mean while, both the Government, and the Merchants, ſuffer'd by this Neglect, wherever it lay. But we muſt draw to a Concluſion for this Time, *Roger*; only as Politicians reckon Secretaries of State to be *the Compaſſes of the State*. We doubt not, but the Deſire of the Houſe of Lords will be ſatisfy'd by the Perſons of Quality now in Truſt; and that they will keep thoſe Compaſſes in due Order, that the Ship of the State may no more be in Hazard of being wrong ſteer'd, and run upon Shelves: And we have Reaſon to hope, that our Secrets ſhall be better kept in Time to come, and not expos'd to the meaneſt Clerks and Door-keepers; for every Body muſt allow, that one of the moſt eſſential Qualifications in One in that Poſt, is, to keep the Secrets of the Government conceal'd; otherwiſe he neither anſwers the End of his Name, or Office.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ The Cupulo; a Poem. Occaſion'd by the Vote of the Houſe of Commons, for covering that of St. Paul's with Britiſh Copper. Sold by J. Morphew, near Stationers-Hall. Price 6 d.

The Purifying Extract,

PReſerver of Health and Vigour: And comprehenſive Reſtorer from acute Sickneſs, and painful chronic Diſeaſes; in Body, or Limbs. By executing radically, the neceſſary Preventive, and chiefeſt curative Operations in all Caſes: The moſt uſeful, eaſy, and commodious Relief; the World hath yet been bleſs'd with. As at large ſet forth in; *The Myſtery of curing comprehenſively.* By an eminent Phyſician, forty Years converſant in various Preparations, Tryals, and Reforms; thereby acquiring ſuch as excel, the traditional Book-Medicines. At the *Moors Head*, his Houſe in *Eagle Street*, by *Red Lyon Square.*

Theſe are to give Notice,

THat *Mary Kirlew*, Widow of *John Kirlew*, Son of Dr. *Thomas Kirlew*, a ſworn Phyſician in ordinary to King *Charles* the II. ſells (exactly prepar'd) his famous Drink and Pills, experienc'd above 50 Years, to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Scurvies, Leproſies, Running of the Reins, and the moſt inveterate Venereal Diſeaſe, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or deſtructive Mercurial Preparations. Theſe incomparable Medicines need no Words to expreſs their Virtues, the many miſerable Ones that have been happily cur'd after given over by others, ſufficiently recommend them as the moſt ſovereign Remedy in the World againſt all ſuch Malignities. She cures many after Fluxing; and in Compaſſion to the Diſtreſſed, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 *s.* the Quart, the Pills 1 *s.* the Box, with Directions; and Advice *gratis*. ☞ She lives at the *Golden Ball* in *Hand Court*, over againſt *Great Turn-Stile*, in *Holborn.*

THE moſt excellent Spirit of Ground-Ivy, diſtill'd to its perfection. It infallibly cools and ſweetens the Blood, and mightily helps to keep the Stomach in Order. It hath likewiſe a more than ordinary Effect upon the Lungs, by preventing and wearing off ſhort huſking Coughs, and preſerving the Lungs ſound and entire. In any Caſe where the Blood wants rectifying, eſpecially Conſumptions, it is hardly to be imagin'd of what Benefit it is. It is to be drank in Wine, Ale, or the Waters, whereby Gentlemen may carry it in their Pockets, and drink it at their Pleaſure. To be ſold with printed Directions only at the *Bible* in *Fetter-Lane*, at 1 *s.* a Bottle. *Note*, It will be found much more uſeful than what is generally call'd *Gill-Ale*, where the Quinteſſence of the Herb is never extracted. At the ſame Place is alſo ſold the true Spirit of Elder, by the firſt Preparer. And the Spirit of Scurvy-Graſs.

LONDON, Printed for the Uſe of the Widow of the late Author, JOHN TUTCHIN.